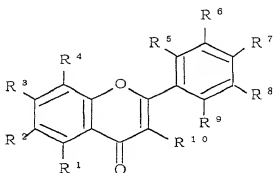


What is claimed is:

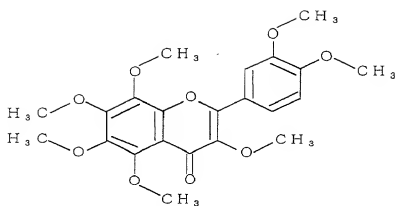
1. A cosmetic composition comprising 0.00005 to 10wt% of polymethoxyflavone represented by formula (I):



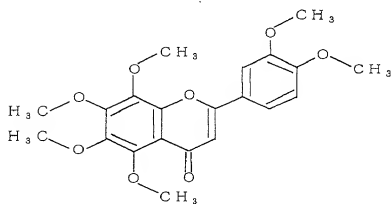
(I)

wherein each of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, and R¹⁰ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, hydroxyl group, alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkenyl group having 2 to 20 carbon atoms, hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a sugar residue, and at least four of R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, and R¹⁰ are methoxy groups.

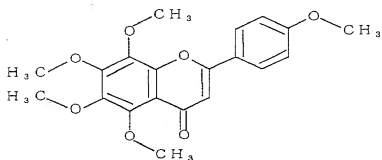
2. The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the polymethoxyflavone comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by formulae (II) to (V):



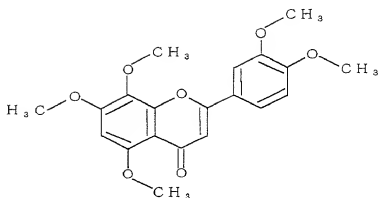
(II)



(III)



(IV)



(V)

3. The cosmetic composition of claim 2, wherein the polymethoxyflavone comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 5,6,7,8,3',4'-hexamethoxyflavone and 5,6,7,8,4'-pentamethoxyflavone.

4. A method for isolating and purifying polymethoxyflavone comprising the steps of:

subjecting peel of a plant of the Genus Citrus of the Family Rutaceae to extraction with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, ethyl acetate, acetone, propylene glycol, and 1, 3-butylene glycol to obtain an extract (S1);

dissolving the extract (S1) in ethyl acetate, adding water thereto, stirring, separating into layers, removing a water layer, distilling off the ethyl acetate to obtain a dry solid product (S2); and

dissolving the dry solid product (S2) in a solvent, and subjecting it to liquid column chromatography.

5. A method for isolating and purifying polymethoxyflavone comprising the steps of:

subjecting peel of a plant of the Genus Citrus of the Family Rutaceae to extraction with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, ethyl acetate, acetone, propylene glycol, and 1, 3-butylene glycol to obtain an extract (S1);

dissolving the extract (S1) in hexane and/or chloroform, removing a precipitate, distilling off the hexane and/or chloroform to obtain a dry solid product (S3); and

dissolving the dry solid product (S3) in a solvent, and subjecting it to liquid column chromatography.

6. The method of claim 4 or 5, wherein the liquid column chromatography uses silica gel and/or alumina as a filler, and a mixed solution of hexane/ethanol in a volume proportion of 70/30 to 97/3 as an eluent.